

Special Report on Puget Sound



Troubled Waters

In order to have good jobs and a strong economy, we need to keep Washington a great place to live. That begins with protecting and restoring our crown jewel: Puget Sound.

On its surface, the Sound looks pristine. But just below the surface the health of our region's namesake is rapidly deteriorating.

Scientists tell us that everything from eelgrass to orcas are in serious trouble. Fish kills in the Hood Canal and closed shellfish beds are just some of the many indicators that we must take bold action now to restore the health of Puget Sound.

Cleaning Up Puget Sound Legislative Action

I am honored to serve as Chair of the House Select Committee on Puget Sound. On the committee, we crafted legislation to create the Puget Sound Partnership and empower it to lead our efforts in cleaning up the Sound by 2020. The final piece of legislation:

- Consolidates programs into one new state agency to clean up Puget Sound
- Increases accountability
- Paves the way for future state and federal funding

Look inside to learn more and find ways that you can help clean up Puget Sound!

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Cleaning Up Puget Sound Puget Sound Partnership

The Puget Sound Partnership is a one-of-a-kind state agency charged with a simple and ambitious goal – cleaning up Puget Sound by 2020.

The partnership will create an action agenda and funding plan by next September and will be responsible for coordinating clean-up efforts at all levels of government. This action agenda and new accountability measures will make Puget Sound more attractive for federal funding similar to the Florida Everglades, the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay.

Another crucial component of the Puget Sound Partnership's new role is promoting citizen education and involvement in the restoration efforts. These outreach efforts are designed to raise awareness of the Sound's serious environmental decline and provide opportunities for concerned citizens to make a difference and invest some sweat equity into their community.

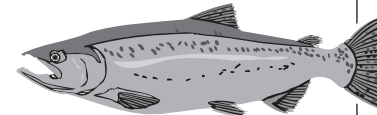
The Puget Sound Partnership is led by seven citizen leaders appointed by the Governor, and their work is guided by a scientific advisory panel.



Cleaning up Puget Sound Local Projects

On the Duwamish –

One hundred years of industrial development have wreaked havoc on the Duwamish. The state awarded \$1.4 million to the city of Tukwila to purchase two acres of riverbank on the Duwamish waterway just downstream from the East Marginal Way S. Bridge. This money will be used to create new habitat for juvenile salmon and other fish species and wildlife.



Seahurst Beach –

The city of Burien received \$1.1 million to complete phase II of the bulkhead removal and beach restoration project. Juvenile salmon depend on nearshore habitat in their early years of growth. Removing these bulkheads will make Seahurst Park one of the largest stretches of salmon-friendly shoreline in central Puget Sound.



Cleaning Up Puget Sound Community Action

Everyone has a role to play in rehabilitating Puget Sound. Much of the deterioration of the health of the Sound is attributed to how we live our everyday lives. The state and local governments will certainly do their part but cleaning up Puget Sound will take a community effort.

What you can do today

- Use natural alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers in your garden to prevent harmful chemicals from leaching into the Sound.
- Conserve water so streams and rivers stay full to support juvenile salmon.
- Safely dispose of unused medicines to keep them from seeping into Puget Sound.
- Wash your car at a carwash that recycles its water.



*Dave and the Mud Monster
schmooze at Des Moines
Beach Park.*

Mudup program

The Nature Conservancy, People for Puget Sound, and Trust for Public Lands have joined forces to form the Mudup program. Mudup's mission is to match volunteers with habitat restoration efforts all over Puget Sound. If you'd like to get your hands dirty while cleaning up Puget Sound, contact the folks over at Mudup.

Please visit www.mudup.org to learn more. You might even come face-to-face with the elusive mud monster.

